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Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body

Note by the Secretary-General concerning the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/61/9

I. Introduction

1. At its fifteenth session, in April 2006, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body", for adoption by the General Assembly (E/2006/30 and Corr.1, chap. I, A, draft resolution I).

2. At its 43rd plenary meeting, on 28 July 2006, the Economic and Social Council took note of the draft resolution and decided to transmit it to the General Assembly (decision 2006/256).

3. It is recalled that in accordance with paragraph 69 (b) of the first report of the General Committee on the organization of the sixty-first regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/61/250), the General Committee took note of paragraph 4 (c) of the annex to resolution 58/316 and decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 41 (the report of the Economic and Social Council) in its entirety should be considered in plenary meeting, on the understanding that the administrative, programme and budgetary aspects should be dealt with by the Fifth Committee. In addition, in accordance with the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters,

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and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

4. Accordingly, by his letter dated 19 October 2006 to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/61/9), the Chairman of the Third Committee transmitted the note by the Secretariat (A/C.3/61/L.2) containing the text of the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body" to the Fifth Committee for its consideration. The present note is submitted by the Secretary-General to inform the Fifth Committee of the programmatic and financial implications of the draft resolution transmitted to it by the Chairman of the Third Committee.

II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

5. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 to 3 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would:

(a) Authorize the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the principal United Nations policymaking body on crime prevention and criminal justice issues, to approve, on the basis of the proposals of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, bearing in mind the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, including its administrative and programme support costs budget, other than expenditures borne by the regular budget of the United Nations, without prejudice to the powers of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as provided for in that Convention, and to the powers of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as provided for in that Convention;

(b) Request the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to submit its comments and recommendations on the biennial consolidated budget for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(c) Request the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to report to the Economic and Social Council in 2007 on how it plans to carry out those administrative and financial functions.

6. The attention of the General Assembly is also drawn to Economic and Social Council decision 2006/239, adopted at the 41st meeting of the Council, on 27 July 2006, entitled "Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its fifteenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its sixteenth session", by which the Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its fifteenth session;

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixteenth session, including agenda items 11, Strengthening the crime programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body; and 12,

Administrative and budgetary questions, on the understanding that at its intersessional meetings the Commission would examine and finalize the provisional agenda and documentation, taking into account the proposal contained in annex XIV to the report of the Commission on its fifteenth session.

7. The provisional agenda envisages that the Commission, at its sixteenth regular session, would consider (under its agenda item 12) the consolidated budget outline of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the biennium 2008-2009. The related discussion and understanding of the Commission would entail the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice holding its first reconvened session for the purpose of reviewing and approving the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund for the biennium 2008-2009, including its administrative and programme support costs budget, at the end of 2007.

8. The envisaged timing of the review and approval of the consolidated budget of the Office, which is composed of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund and the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, would synchronize the calendars for the review and approval of the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund with that of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. This would ensure that the budgets of the two United Nations trust funds that provide the basis for the funding of the technical cooperation programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime follow a synchronized budgetary cycle.

III. Relationship of the request to the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007

9. The request contained in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution is related to subprogramme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs, of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and subprogramme 2, Services for policymaking and treaty adherence, of programme 13, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice of the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 (A/59/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1). The provisions of the draft resolution also pertain to section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 16, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

IV. Activities by which the proposals will be implemented

10. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution and should a decision be made to hold a reconvened session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2007 and every second year of each biennium thereafter, the Commission would be reconvened for two days, at the end of 2007, with two meetings per day and with interpretation services in all official languages and the required pre-session, in-session and post-session documentation.

V. Modifications required in the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007

11. In order to reflect the provisions of the draft resolution, the narrative of section 16, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 would need to be modified as follows: at the end of paragraph 16.40 (a) (iii) a., Substantive servicing of meetings, add the following text: "plenary meetings in the reconvened session of the Commission (4)".

VI. Additional requirements for the biennium 2006-2007

12. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution and provided that a reconvened session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is held at the end of 2007, additional requirements under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 would total $144,300, as indicated below by budget section:

Additional regular budget requirements (2007)

(United States dollars)

Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	
Meeting servicing, interpretation and documentation	94 300
Section 16. International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice	
Travel of representatives	50 000
Total	**144 300**

13. The requirements for subsequent bienniums would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for those bienniums.

VII. Potential for absorption

14. The reconvened session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would constitute an addition to the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2007, which has been submitted for approval by the General Assembly. The exact dates for the reconvened session of the Commission will be determined in consultation between the substantive secretariat and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, subject to the availability of conference facilities and services. However, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has indicated that should the reconvened session be held back to back with the reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs during the week of 26 to 30 November 2007, requirements for interpretation amounting to $48,500 could be met from in-house capacity; hence no additional appropriation would be required to cover costs related to interpretation services. Every effort would be made to meet the remaining additional requirements under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and

Social Council affairs and conference management ($45,800), and section 16, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice ($50,000), within the current appropriation, and any additional requirements would be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.

VIII. Summary

15. **Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution and provided that a reconvened session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is held between 26 and 30 November 2007, net additional resources totalling $95,800 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($45,800), and section 16, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice ($50,000), of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.**

16. **It is envisaged that the net additional requirements would be accommodated within the existing appropriation. Accordingly, no additional appropriation is sought over and above the level of funding approved in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. Should the actual requirements for implementing the provisions of the draft resolution exceed the absorptive capacity of the aforementioned sections, the additional provisions would be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.**